

PhD Pioneers: The Living Experiences of The Open University's First PhD Graduates

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Professor Max Bramer**

Interviewed by: **Elizabeth Currie**

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Professor Max Bramer Interview

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Clip 1

[00:12:55-00:13:53]

I mean it was a very dangerous place to work. The government might close us down, more than likely the courses would never get written and anything could happen. There were no graduates. Now I don't suppose most people remember this, but one of the priorities the OU had was to get some graduates, but they were three year degrees. So a trick was done, I think trick is exactly the word, of allowing teachers, qualified teachers to have a year's exemption so they could get degrees in two years. Now quite honestly I don't think and no one's going to sue me for saying this, it's absolutely true. The reason was that at the end of the second year, the end of 1972 they would get the first graduates. Alternatively it would have been the end of 1973 normally, by which time the university could have been closed.

But once the first graduates came out at the end of '72 the whole situation changed, and it became practically impossible I'd have thought to close it down. So there was great relief about that.